



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 1032498-000023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

) **Mail Stop Amendment**

Urs Jorimann et al

) Group Art Unit: 3621

Application No.: 10/786,540

) Examiner: Cristina O. Sherr

Filed: February 26, 2004

) Confirmation No.: 3251

For: **METHOD OF CONTROLLING
ELECTRONIC RECORDS**

)

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This election is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies two patentably distinct species as follows:

Species A: directed to the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 7;
and

Species B: directed to the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 9.

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the subject matter of Species A, which is directed claims 1, 2, and 4-19. This election is made with traverse. Applicants note that claim 1 is generic to non-elected claim 3.

Figures 7-9 are directed to a process step in the method of records control, which relate to authenticating the electronic records by means of at least one electronic signature of a user of the application software. In particular, Figure 7 shows a "log in" box where the user can enter his/her data. Figure 9 shows a "viewing window" showing information associated with all signatures attached to a specific record. Figure 9 also shows any remarks that a user may have added when attaching an electronic signature to the record. As disclosed in paragraph 15 of Applicants' disclosure, the step of signing an electronic record can be subject to a separate access control by means of an additional authentication, for example, by again requiring the user to enter his/her user

name and password. It appears that the Examiner interprets the additional authentication as an identification technique that is different from a user entering his or her name and password. However, this interpretation is inconsistent with Applicants' disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the election requirement is improper and request its withdrawal.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 18, 2007

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